The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Life is of little value unless it be consecrated by duty—Samuel Smiles.

WHOLE NO. 981. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 46.

Workers Don't Want "Prosperity By Proclamation"

President Green of the A. F. of L. says the nation's railroads work thousands of employes more than eight hours a day and that the number of unemployed are thereby increased.

Harvard University discharged cleaning women when the State of Massachusetts insisted that wages of these employes be raised from 55 cents an hour to 37 cents. Men have been employed to do this work as their wages can not be interfered with by the State.

The steel trust's stock-selling plan shows that workers employed by this corporation are paid as low as "$1,259 annually, or less."

The above recent announcements are significant. They are "straws" that may indicate what's happening behind the scenes while employers are restoring prosperity by proclamation and by newspaper interviews.

Railroads are quietly substituting automatic processes and speed-up methods for thousands of employes, while employed are forced to work long hours.

Harvard University is the richest educational institution in America. It has an endowment fund of $90,000,000, leading Columbia's $73,000,000, Yale's $69,000,000 and Chicago's $50,000,000. These endowments are in the form of stocks and bonds that pay regular interest.

Harvard will not pay its work women 37 cents an hour, and employs men who can be paid any wage the management elects without State interference. No protest has been made by the wealth of this country that has made the $90,000,000 endowment possible.

The steel trust's wage of "$1,259 annually, or less," to certain employes may shock citizens who would not believe any corporation pays such a pauper rate.

It may be said that only a few workers are paid this wage. Such a defense can be expected. It is the one alibi that could be offered.

It is not a question of numbers. A wrongful act can not be legalized because only a minority are affected. No employer should be permitted to recognize such debasing standards, and no railroad should ignore the eight-hour principle, when men are talking of a five-day week.

Approval of the principle of high wages and short hours is one thing. Application of this principle is "something else again." The latter being applied by railroads, the steel trust or by our richest educational institution.

How many more employers depend on "prosperity by proclamation" to conceal their low-wage, long-hour standards?

Machine Will Bring Profit To Few But Unemployed Will Show Gain

New York, Jan. 25.—The year 1930 will be satisfactory for business but "employment will not be equally satisfactory," according to B. C. Forbes, publisher Forbes' financial magazine of this city.

Mr. Forbes explains his paradoxical prediction by showing that mergers, automatic machinery and scientific processes will reduce production costs to a minimum, although the situation is "the supreme problem challenging America's industrial, financial and business statesmen."

"Unemployment, involving political and other agitation, threatens to be the bete noir of America's future," says Mr. Forbes. "Science, chemistry, invention, managerial skill, cheap electric and gas power have combined to effect tremendously increased production without corresponding increase in human labor. Endless mergers also release employes of all ranks — executives, superintendents, salesmen, technicians, rank-and-file workmen.

"The task does not call for a Chamber of Commerce committee, but for an Institute of Industrial Co-ordination headed by an organizing genius and wholeheartedly supported by the brainiest leaders in every walk of our economic life."

The Forbes' prediction that large corporations will make more money with less employes is similar to the Standard Statistics Company's statement that various railroads can afford to pay higher dividends. Last year the railroads of this country employed 79,000 less workers than in the previous year, although the railroads handled 4,000,000,000 more ton-miles of revenue freight than in 1927.

Many railroads, the Statistics Company declares, could pay an extra $2 dividend "without endangering the maintenance of such payments under a prolonged traffic slump."

ALTOONA HAS OLD-AGE PENSION; FOR EVERY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYE

Altoona, Pa., Jan. 25.—This city is the first municipality in the United States to provide for its employes an old-age retirement and benefit plan insured with an insurance company.

The entire force of city employes, both men and women, have enrolled for full benefits. In addition to pensions, these include group insurance totalling about $500,000, sickness and accident and total and permanent disability benefits.

The retirement and insurance program functions on a co-operative basis, with city and employes sharing in the cost. Employes will make monthly contributions of approximately 1.5 per cent of their salary, ranging from $1.20 to $3.60 a month.

With the exception of policemen and firemen, who can enter the plan three months after employment, an employe entering the city's service must wait six months before enrolling.

The normal retirement age of 65 has been fixed for both men and women. On leaving the service at that age, after having continued in the retirement plan until then, an employe will receive retirement benefits amounting to 1 per cent of present salary multiplied by years of past service, plus 1½ per cent of total salary from the effective date to the date of retirement. But by arrangement with the city an employe may go on retirement before or after the normal retirement age.

In addition to funeral death benefits, and total and permanent disability benefits, the plan provides for the payment, in case of temporary sickness or accident, of amounts ranging from $10 to $20 a week.

The program also includes a number of service advantages such as a visiting nurse service and the periodical distribution of pamphlets on health conservation and disease prevention.

The plan has been kept out of politics. Future administrations are prevented from deterring or eliminating the benefits earned and purchased after the adoption of the plan up to the time it takes effect.

FARMERS MUST UNITE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 25.—Farmers must organize to solve their problems, declared Secretary of Agriculture Hyde in an address to the New Jersey agricultural convention.

"You farmers have it within your own power to meet and solve the farm problem, but first of all you must organize," said Mr. Hyde. "Then, through your own organizations, it will be possible to set up an instrumentality that will enter the markets of the world in the sole interests of agriculture."

The Secretary's speech sounded like advice that a trade unionist gives to a group of unorganized workers.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY OUSTS 37-CENT WOMEN

Boston, Jan. 25.—Aristocratic Harvard University, the richest school in America, with an endowment of more than $90,000,000, discharged 20 cleaning women because the State Minimum-Wage Board asked that their wages be increased from 35 cents an hour to 37 cents.

The women were replaced by men for whom there are no minimum wage requirements.

The dismissals, some on November 1 and some on December 21, the Saturday before Christmas, came to light when two of the women applied for work at an employment office.

The discharges were confirmed by President Lowell of the university in a letter to Rev. William H. Duvall, Methodist Episcopal clergyman at East Cambridge.

"I find," said President Lowell, "that the State Minimum Wage Board has been complaining of our employing women for these purposes at less than 37 cents an hour, and that the university has felt constrained to replace them with men."

The minimum wage law for women was enacted in 1912. The only penalty for failure to comply with the wage board's decisions is publication of the name of offending employers in the advertising columns of newspapers. The board made the 37-cent rate on December 30, 1920, effective the following February.

Green Gets Rousing Reception In Opening Southern Campaign

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 25.—Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., was given a rousing reception when he delivered the keynote speech of the Southern union drive at a mass meeting here. Municipal auditorium was crowded and every element in the life of Birmingham was represented. James M. Jones, Jr., chairman City Commission, addressed the meeting.

The ovation given President Green, when introduced, dispells any belief that the Southland is "hostile country" to trade unionists. The A. F. of L. executive outlined the work and objectives of organized labor, and declared it was the purpose to extend these activities, as they benefit not only the workers, but every element of society.

President Green held subsequent meetings at Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Elizabethton, Richmond, Asheville and other cities. At Nashville he addressed students of Vanderbilt University. He has been invited to address a joint session of the Mississippi legislature.

Reports to union campaign headquarters in this city indicate enthusiasm everywhere. At Union, N. C., more than 1,000 workers attended a mass meeting held in the county court house. The executive board of the South Carolina Federation of Labor held a two-day session at the State Capitol when plans were discussed to further the campaign.

WHY DELAY PARDON? GOVERNOR IS ASKED

San Francisco, Jan. 25.—"Why are Tooney and Billings in prison?" asks the San Francisco Call-Bulletin.

Governor Young stated, early last year, that he would review the cases on his summer vacation. Later he referred the question to the State Parole Board. Labor members are going over all the papers, just as the governor did.

"Never in all the long months that he (the governor) was studying the Mooney case," says the Call-Bulletin, "has there been a report that the case was finished he would not be finished, but would ask for more delay and more investigation. Yet that is what he has done.

"And what does the governor gain by this? No pardon board decides it would not be wise to pardon Mooney, will the governor reply, 'But, I, the governor, think it is not only wise, but necessary.'

"If it decides that Mooney should be pardoned will Governor Young be any stronger because of that decision of men who are hardly likely to disagree with their political chief?

"And if these cases are dragged along, postponed and delayed until after the primary election in August—when Governor Young will be either a defeated candidate or the nominee—Tooney and Billings will be now holds—what prestige will then be his in granting pardons he could have granted months before?"

"$1,259 ANNUALLY, OR LESS," PAID BY ANTI-UNION STEEL

New York, Jan. 25.—The steel trust pays a wage as low as "$1,259 annually, or less."

The startling information is contained in the trust's program of stock selling to employes, just announced.

Employes of the corporation and subsidaries who receive $1,-259 annually or less can not subscribe to more than one share, and by various graduations it runs up to where superintendents and managers, who receive from $33,750 to $36,250 a year, may subscribe to 14 shares.

The trust has set aside 100,000 shares to be disposed of at $169 a share. Payment by employes is deducted monthly from wages, and payments must be large enough that $3 a share, nor exceed one-fourth of any one month's salary or wages. Payments will be completed in three years, and interest at 5 per cent a year is charged by the trust on the unpaid balance.

Inducements are offered employes to hold their stock. If a worker who receives "$1,259 annually, or less," holds his one share for five years, he is paid an extra allowance of $3 for the first year, $4 for the second, $5 for the third, $6 for the fourth and $7 for the fifth. Under this system of "industrial democracy" a man "sharing in industry" he receives an extra $25, or an average of $5 a year, if he is satisfied with his "$1,259 annually, or less," and keeps out of a trade union that could not exist if it did not offer members greater financial attractions.

EXPLOITERS CAUSE PORTO RICO WRONGS

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 25.—Trade unionists in this island are hopeful that citizens of the United States who are discussing the need for feeding Porto Rican school children will venture into cause where these kiddies go to school with empty stomachs. Fathers of the children are paid but 50 and 60 cents a day—when they work.

The people are in a miserable condition of poverty, due to ruthless exploitation by absentee landlords who have seized the land and driven peasants into cities and towns where they eke out an uncertain existence.

Almost three-fourths of the island's property, it is estimated, is controlled by American corporations that drain the island of its wealth and refuse to pay their share of taxes. All internal improvements have ceased because of a lack of funds and thousands of injured workers have not been paid compensation that is due them under the law.

After 30 years of American rule this island has been changed to a gigantic factory of underpaid and underfed peons. Men responsible for this condition talk of giving a meal to school children and deporting islanders on the theory that Porto Rico is overpopulated.

Neither of these suggestions will remedy the underlying economic ills that the few are responsible for.

RADIO TRUST CONTROLS; PAID HUGE ROYALTIES

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Radio Corporation of America compels radio manufacturers and jobbers to handle its radio parts, declared B. J. Grigsby, Chicago radio manufacturer, at a Senate committee hearing.

The witness said that his company, in the year and one-half of its existence, paid R. A. C. $5,383,879.15 in royalties.

"If we had not been compelled to pay this royalty, our purchasers would save $15,000,000," said Mr. Grigsby. "We did not need these patents, but the radio combine has so intimidated the industry and has so intimidated dealers and jobbers everywhere that they are afraid to handle what they call 'unlicensed sets.'

R. A. C. even compels payment of a royalty on cabinets and packing cases, although there are no patents on either, said Mr. Grigsby.

MARTIAL LAW LIFTED; IN FORCE SINCE 1927

Dubois, Pa., Jan. 25.—The first official act of Sheriff Ira C. McCloskey after he took the oath of office, was to end the state of martial law, which has been in force since August 15, 1927.

Martial law was ordered by Percy E. Smith, then sheriff, who alleged that the miners' strike was beyond control of civil authorities. The proclamation was investigated by a United States Senate committee. The average citizen has long since forgotten the edict and thousands daily, it is stated, have unwittingly violated the decree.

TELEGRAPHERS GAIN

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25.—The Missouri Pacific Railroad granted a 5% cent per hour wage increase of 2½ cents an hour to station, tower and telegraph service employes.

The grant was made after long negotiations with the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

VANCOUVER LABOR AWAKE

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 25.—Asbestos workers and glass blowers in this city are organizing. Butcher Workers have perfected their union and are now functioning.

CITY CAN'T BE BUILT ON LOW WAGE SYSTEM

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 25.—"No city can be built on salesmanship talk alone; it takes something more substantial," said William E. McEwen, veteran trade unionist and publisher Duluth Labor World, in commenting on a recent speech in this city by Julius Barnes, chairman board of directors United States Chamber of Commerce.

"Mr. Barnes pleased his audience, for he talked on phases of the business situation close to their hearts," said Editor McEwen. "But he overlooked the important factors that retard prosperity—unemployment, low wages, long hours and the displacement of workers by machinery and new processes. There is the solution. Until the army of unemployed are put to work and underpaid employes are given higher wages there will be no prosperity, except for the favored and entrenched few.

"You can't keep down buying power and expect to build a greater Duluth. It doesn't work out. We have had 10 years of the anti-union shop and no one is happy or prosperous. Low wages is the cause."

CHAIN STORE CONTROL STARTED IN KENTUCKY

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 25.—Governor Sampson recommends to the State Legislature that a commission be created to study the chain-store situation. Such organizations are not bearing their fair share of the burdens of government, they pay low salaries, sell inferior goods, give short weight and measure, invest in no property and injure the public in divers and sundr- ways," he said.

Concord, N. H., Jan. 25.—The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled that the State Legislature may tax "good will of retail stores on the basis of their net income. A legislative bill along these lines is opposed by the National Chain Store Association which declares it is common knowledge that the purpose is to compel chain stores to pay larger taxes.

The decision was made under a state law which permits the Supreme Court to pass on a proposal before it is adopted as a law.

CONTROL OF STRIKE BREAKING SOUGHT

Providence, R. I., Jan. 25.—Employers seeking to fill the places of strikers would be required to mention plainly and explicitly in an advertisement or other solicitation that a strike or lockout exists, under the provisions of a bill introduced by Representative LeBlanc.

A fine of not more than $10 for each offense is provided.

POLITICAL ACTION APART FROM UNIONS

Portland, Ore., Jan. 25.—Officers of the Oregon Federation of Labor recommend formation of a non-partisan political league to handle the legislative and political program of organized labor in this state.

The proposed league would be separate from the Federation, but would be composed of authorized representatives of legitimate labor organizations. Railroad brotherhoods and liberal farm elements would be included.

"Local unions, city central bodies and the State Federation of Labor are all engaged with problems that are mostly industrial," said Ben T. Osborne, secretary of the State Federation.

"Attempts to advance a unified political program through the local unions and central councils meets with the difficulty of being subordinated to and often neglected for other activities that seem more pressing at the moment. An organization with a single purpose—legislative or political action—could function more effectively."

RAIL WORKERS OUT; MACHINERY CAUSE

Alexandria, Va., Jan. 25.—Machinery and improved processes have reduced employment at the Potomac railroad yards, operated by several transportation systems. The annual pay roll has been cut $90,000, and next month 50 train service men who ride and apply brakes on cars running down the humps will be discharged.

The management with fine sarcasm announces that their budget for the next fiscal year "will carry large sums for improvements in compliance with President Hoover's plea for work to stimulate business."

WOULD ELECT JUDGES

Washington, Jan. 25.—Election of federal district judges by popular vote is proposed in a resolution offered by Senator Jones of Washington, which would amend Article 111, section 1 of the Federal Constitution. The Supreme Court or appellate courts would not be affected.

IDLENESS STARTS VICIOUS CIRCLE; SENATOR WAGNER BLAMES SOCIETY

New York, Jan. 25.—"Idleness starts a vicious circle," declared United States Senator Wagner in explaining why old age pensions must become an accepted policy of state governments to alleviate the trouble caused by automatic machinery displacing middle-aged workmen.

"Men discharged in one plant invariably mean more men discharged in another plant," said Senator Wagner. "Men without jobs have no purchasing power and it is that power which makes the wheels of industry go round and brings the farmers' products to market. Unemployment is contagious. It can not be isolated. How long must the tragedy of unemployment continue in a land of plenty? Once the man without a job was indolent and a ne'er-do-well. That is no longer so.

"We must come to realize that if unemployment is sinful, it is a sin not of the idle but of the society."

Mr. Wagner has introduced three bills in the Senate which, he said, "are designed to assist planning in the solution of this problem within the sphere of the government."

The bills provide for long range planning of public works, for the co-operation of Federal and State employment agencies and for the enlargement of the functions of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics."

COURT AIDS UTILITIES TO GET HIGHER RETURN

Washington, Jan. 25.—A study of recent public utility decisions by the United States Supreme Court reveals that these corporations are "sitting pretty."

In the case of the Baltimore street railway company, the court held that a return of 6.2 per cent on the present value of the company is confiscation. "It is not certain that rates securing a return of 7½ or even 8 per cent on the value of the property would not be necessary to avoid confiscation," the court said. Depreciation must be based on present values and not on original costs. The brought vigorous dissent from Justices Holmes and Brandeis. The decision means a 10-cent fare for Baltimore.

The company won its fight to have the use of the streets given a value of $5,000,000. The streets are owned by the people, who allow the corporation the use of same. The people now find that they must pay at least 8 per cent interest on $5,000,000, which is the value of the privilege given the company.

The court recently took similar action against the California Railroad Service Commission and ordered that the Los Angeles street car company be permitted to charge higher fares.

In 1926 the court held, in the Indianapolis water works case, that a return of less than 7 per cent is confiscatory. Since then the court has gradually enlarged its powers and reasoned that less than 6 per cent can now be considered "confiscation," despite contrary views by state public utility commissions.

UNEMPLOYED IN GERMANY IS MORE THAN 1,750,000

New York, Jan. 25.—Unemployment is general in Germany, according to press cables from Berlin. Out-of-work total is more than 1,750,000, or 70,000 more than there were at this time last year.

The destitution is resulting in wild denionstrations and hand-to-hand fights with the police throughout that country. British unemployment is likewise serious, despite every effort of the Labor government to improve conditions. British workers are beginning to be suspicious of "rationalization" as a solution, as this system means new machinery and a further reduction of employed.

COMMUNISTS APPEAL FOR TRADE UNION FUNDS

New York, Jan. 25.—The Workers' International Relief, a Communist unit, is an appeals for funds for trade union funds. The office of this concern is at 799 Broadway. The usual attack on the A. F. of L. is included in the appeal to members of these organizations.

Communists are also behind the Trade Union Unity League (a boring-from-within outfit), the National Textile Workers and the National Mine Workers. None of these "paper" organizations publish receipts and expenditures. When exposed, they adopt a new name for their money-getting pleas.

WORKERS GET READY FOR BIG WALK OUT

New York, Jan. 25.—Garment workers are stiffening their lines for a general strike in the dressmaking industry that will be called by officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The members are making every effort to have each worker employed when the strike call is issued. Abolition of sweat shops is the workers' principal objective. Other demands are:

Five-day, 40-hour week; minimum wage scales; right to the job; settlement of piece prices by a committee of shop workers; no home employed insurance; responsibility of the jobber for conditions in contracting shops.

Cloak makers, last July, won these demands following a two-weeks' strike. "Our success in that instance was because thousands and thousands of workers came back to the union before the strike was called," officers of the union declare. "When the strike was called, over 30,000 men and women responded, and the entire industry was paralyzed. The employers had but one alternative and they settled with the union."

RADIO TRUST EXPOSED; BLOCKS PRESS SERVICE

Washington, Jan. 25.—"The Radio Corporation of America is the 'secret radio corporation of America'," said Joseph Weber, president Press Wireless, Inc., in his testimony to a Senate committee. The witness charged that the radio trust has raised "every conceivable obstacle in the way of the press enterprise."

A proposed license that the radio trust would enforce on the company provides:

"Press Wireless, Inc., must surrender to R. C. A. without any charge whatsoever all patents or patent rights it has or will ever have and must give R. C. A. total and exclusive right to lease, transfer or assign such patents to others.

"Press Wireless, Inc., must buy all parts from R. C. A."

CHAINS BREAK RECORD

New York, Jan. 25.—The onward sweep of chain stores is shown in the report of sales for 1929 by 36 representative chains in this country.

Sales totaled $2,124,915,366, against $1,802,351,493 for the previous year. The increase of $322,566,873 equals 17.8 per cent.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY OUSTS 37-CENT WOMEN

Boston, Jan. 25.—Aristocratic Harvard University, the richest school in America, with an endowment of more than $90,000,000, discharged 20 cleaning women because the State Minimum-Wage Board asked that their wages be increased from 35 cents an hour to 37 cents.

The women were replaced by men for whom there are no minimum wage requirements.

The dismissals, some on November 1 and some on December 21, the Saturday before Christmas, came to light when two of the women applied for work at an employment office.

The discharges were confirmed by President Lowell of the university in a letter to Rev. William H. Duvall, Methodist Episcopal clergyman at East Cambridge.

"I find," said President Lowell, "that the State Minimum Wage Board has been complaining of our employing women for these purposes at less than 37 cents an hour, and that the university has felt constrained to replace them with men."

The minimum wage law for women was enacted in 1912. The only penalty for failure to comply with the wage board's decisions is publication of the name of offending employers in the advertising columns of newspapers. The board made the 37-cent rate on December 30, 1920, effective the following February.

TO PENSION 40,000 BY DOUBLING TAX

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 25.—A State pension for penniless aged of 70 or over will be recommended by the State Old Age Security Commission, according to Cyrus W. Phillips, counsel for the commission. The cost will approximate $15,000,000 a year, to be raised by doubling the stock transfer tax of 2 cents a share.

The commission estimates that 40,000 persons, now in dire want or without adequate support, will be eligible. This will allow them to maintain their own homes and escape the poorhouse.

According to Mr. Phillips there will be no objection or resistance, although one member of the commission—Frank X. Bernhardt of Erie county—recently declared that a maximum of $50 was being considered.

BUILDING DECLINES

Chicago, Jan. 25.—The decline in building during 1929 is indicated by the drop in farm mortgage real estate bond and stock offerings. The offerings totaled but $521,136,000, or approximately 45 per cent from the 1925 total of $921,777,000. It is believed that the slowing up in 1929 will have a beneficial effect this year.

SIGN WRITERS UNITE

Winnipeg, Jan. 25.—Sign writers in this city are organized and are affilated to the regular trade union movement.

President's Power Exceeds King's; Self Seekers Encourage This Plan

Baltimore, Jan. 25.—The increase of presidential power was discussed by Congressman Johnson of Texas at the annual banquet of the Baltimore County Bar Association.

Mr. Johnson spoke in no partisan of personal sense, as he traced the development of power that year by year is being exercised by the Chief Executive.

The speaker said Mr. Justice George Sutherland of the United States Supreme Court did not exaggerate conditions when he stated, several years ago, in his book, "Constitutional Power and World Affairs":

"The office of President has grown in potency and influence far beyond the conception of any of those who framed and adopted the Constitution. Even in normal times Congress has been subjected to such a degree of executive domination as to threaten the stability of the principle of departmental independence involved in the distribution of the several powers among the three branches of government. There is a popular, ever-increasing disposition to regard the President as a superior officer rather than a coequal member of a tripartite organization."

Congressman Johnson said executive power is aided and encouraged by privilege that would weaken the influence of Congress, another factor in the power of appointment that the President possesses.

"The King of England is a pigmy in power as compared with our President," said Mr. Johnson. "The British Parliament is the center of authority. There the power of the Executive has gradually waned, while that of Parliament has increased. Here the reverse is true. The office of President has been exalted and augmented in power, while Congress has been falling into the background.

"The King of England exercises scant governmental authority. He has the right of veto, but dares not exercise it. Their real governmental executive is the Prime Minister, while the King is merely the symbol of the government; our President is both.

"Sometimes I think in America we are dangerously near the acceptance of the ancient doctrine that the king can do no wrong, as applied to our President."

CHINESE SMUGGLERS DO ALLE SAME BOSS

San Francisco, Jan. 25.—The Seamen's Journal suggests that anti-union vessel owners set a good example to their untutored Chinese crews who are professional opium smugglers, and whose seamanship is but a profitable gesture.

The Dollar Steamship Company leads in the employment of these Chinese. R. Stanley Dollar, head of the company, was recently fined $11,489 by Customs officials in New York for failure to report dutiable stuff in his baggage.

The "Nauticus," marine journal, makes this comment on Mr. Dollar's smuggling venture:

"Nothing has occurred in recent years is so humiliating to the shipping industry as the action that the United States has taken lately to take against R. Stanley Dollar. For years shipping companies have asked to be relieved of the penalties imposed upon them when smuggling is carried on by members of the crew, and now that an official of an important shipping company, drawing large Government subsidies, has been caught in the act, it is feared that the reaction may prove fatal, in so far as the relief of penalties for smuggling is concerned."

CRIME IS FOSTERED BY LOW WAGE SYSTEM

New York, Jan. 25.—Low wages breed crime, declares Ranulph Kingsley, writing in the New York Times. He is an official of a crime insurance company.

"According to the United States census," said Mr. Kingsley, "25,000,000 servants, housekeepers, farm hands, mechanics and day laborers average $25 a week. This is a subsistence wage for a single man, but precludes marriage.

"The reason that four-fifths of present-day American crime is committed by youths between 18 and 25 years of age—as the Times recently stated—is that the wages paid to unskilled, unorganized young workers do not permit a sufficiently attractive normal life.

"So long as we Americans have exploitation we shall have crime. So long as we continue to wring dollars out of the starved and suffering human bodies we shall continue to have hold-ups, theft, burglary, embezzlements and forgery."

AUSTRALIAN LABOR ABOLISHES DRAFT PLAN

New York, Jan. 25.—Compulsory military training, the keystone of conscription, established for over 20 years, has been abolished by the new Labor party government, according to Australian Press dispatches. A voluntary militia system will be substituted.

During the World War organized labor in that country defeated, by a nrtion-wide referendum, two attempts to set up conscription.

SCHLESINGER RE-ELECTED

New York, Jan. 25.—Benjamin Schlesinger was re-elected president International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the first referendum held by that organization. The vote was 20,353 to 677.

General Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky received 19,739 votes and but 706 against.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN

Chicago, Jan. 25.—A wage agreement that increases rates $2.50 a week with a similar increase on Jan. 31, 1931, has been signed by theater owners and the Moving Picture Machine Operators' Union.